



The Green Gage.

XXXVIII.

THE GREEN GAGE PLUM.

The Plum called by DU HAMEL *Dauphine*, *Grosse Reine Claude*, *Abricot Verte*, and *Verte Bonne*, has long been considered the variety which is cultivated in the English Gardens under the name of the *Green Gage*. This appellation is said to have originated from the following accident. "The GAGE family, in the last century, procured from the Monks of the *Chartreuse* at *Paris* a collection of fruit trees; these arrived at their mansion of *Hengrave Hall*, with the tickets safely affixed to them, except only the *Reine Claude*, the ticket of which had been rubbed off in the passage. The gardener being, from this circumstance, ignorant of the name, called it, when it bore fruit, the *Green Gage*.*" On comparing our variety with the description given by DU HAMEL, together with his uncoloured figure, little doubt can remain of its identity; and the coloured plate of the *Reine Claude* which has appeared in the new edition of the *Traité des Arbres Fruitières*, publishing at *Paris*, in every respect confirms this opinion.

The trees are of free and vigorous growth, and abundant in produce; young shoots strong, of a fine reddish brown; leaves, deep green, smooth, large, oval, obtusely dentated; footstalk thick,

* Hort. Trans. Vol. I. Appendix, p. 8. Note by Sir JOSEPH BANKS.